having per capita availability of kerosene much lower than the national average. Accordingly, a high increase of 21.65% has been made in the allocation of kerosene to Rajasthan for the year 1998-99, compared to the 8.58% increase at the country level. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 78324 MTs. The per capita availability of kerosene in the State has now increased to 10 kg./annum in 1998-99 from 8.22 kg./annum in 1997-98.

Impact of Nuclear Tests on Foreign Policy

*233. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any long or short term impact of May 1998 Nuclear Tests on our foreign policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) India's foreign policy which has enjoyed national consensus, reflects a high degree of continuity. For the last 50 years the primary objective of India's foreign policy has been to pursue self-reliance and maintain independence of thought and action. In keeping with this basic tenet successive governments have taken necessary steps to safeguard India's nuclear option. The recent tests are a logical continuation of the earlier decisions. Despite any apprehensions that may be expressed regarding the short term, in the long term Government's policies will ensure India taking its rightful place in the community of nations.

Canada's Nuclear Aid to India

*234. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada propose to assist India in the field of Nuclear Energy;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard;

(c) the time by which Canada is likely to resume neclear aid to India;

(d) whether areas for nuclear cooperation between the two countries have been identified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) There is no proposal from the Canadian Government to assist India in the field of nuclear energy.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Task Force to Evolve National I.T. Policy

*235. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force has been created with a view to evolve a National Information Technology policy;

(b) if so, the names of the Members of the Committee, its terms of reference and other details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of the Members of the said Committee was associated actively with M/s ARM, Hyderabad, which has been chargesheeted by the CBI; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the draft policy on I.T. presented to Government by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh will be the basis of the aforesaid exercise?